Three Freedoms Under the Magnifying Glass
Violations of Basic Human Rights in Serbia
November 06 - November 19, 2026

Freedom of Expression

Journalistic Work Under the Constant Fear for One's Own Safety

The Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) raised concerns over the public targeting and attempts to discredit Tamara Tankosić, a journalist with Radio Television of Serbia (RTS), following her decision to discuss the cases of individuals pardoned by former Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić prior to his resignation. In its statement, the NUNS noted that Ana Brnabić, who was serving as Acting President of Serbia at the time, referred to the RTS journalist in a negative context during an appearance on Pink TV. This was followed by numerous social media posts that were clearly aimed at questioning Tamara Tankosić's professional integrity and discrediting her journalistic work.

According to a statement by the NUNS, the editorial team of the Volim Zrenjanin news portal received another series of disturbing messages on 10th November. The messages contained extremely vulgar insults, graphic descriptions of extreme violence, and deeply disturbing references, including references to children, causing members of the editorial team to fear for their safety. The editorial team reported that they had received similar messages approximately ten days earlier. Given the repeated nature of these threats and harassment, they fear for their personal safety, including the possibility of a physical attack.

RTV reporter, Ivana Lukin, was reporting live on air when she was struck by a red car as its driver was manoeuvring out of a parking space. The car first hit her with its side mirror while reversing, and then struck her again with its front end. Taken aback and confused by what was happening, the reporter said, "I'm sorry," when the car first hit her. She apologised to viewers for a second time when she was struck again, while a voice from inside the car could be heard saying: "Please move aside a little."

The latest threat of sexual violence against Marko Vidojković was posted in a comment on his Facebook profile. The threat was made by a user operating under the name Nikola Mladić, who also posted an insulting and threatening message on Nenad Kulačin's Facebook profile, beneath an announcement for the programme Dobar, loš, zao (Good, Bad, Evil). Veran Matić, Chair of the Board of the Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) and a member of the Permanent Working Group for the Safety of Journalists, reported the latest threats against Vidojković and Kulačin to the Special Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime, calling for the prompt identification and prosecution of the individuals responsible for the threatening comments. ANEM pointed out that it had already reported death threats and threats of violence directed at Vidojković and Kulačin, as well as their families, on several previous occasions. The Association also stressed that it was particularly concerning that the individuals making threats against the journalists' safety were using their full names and leaving their email addresses and IP addresses. These details were explicitly included in all reports submitted to the competent prosecution authorities, including the Special Prosecutor's Office for High-Tech Crime.

Continuation of the Years-Long Targeting of Editor Brankica Stanković

The Association of Journalists of Serbia (UNS) condemned the threatening and sexist chants directed at Brankica Stanković, Editor-in-Chief of Insajder, during the Partizan–Maccabi basketball game and called on the relevant authorities to establish the responsibility of the fans involved. The Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade (VJT) requested that the police collect the necessary information regarding the incident, which took place on 6 November 2026 at the Belgrade Arena. The Association of Independent Electronic Media (ANEM) welcomed the decision of the Third Basic Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade to order the detention and questioning of suspects accused of endangering the safety of Brankica Stanković, Editor-in-Chief of Insajder Television.

Stanković has been a target of attacks by fan groups and hooligans for 17 years because of her investigative reporting on the criminal backgrounds of individuals and organisations presenting themselves as sports fans, as well as her reporting on unprosecuted criminal complaints concerning serious offences, the statement added. Similar chants were heard in 2009, following the broadcast of Brankica Stanković's investigative series on hooliganism, entitled "(In)The Power of the State" ("(Ne)moć države"). Following the series, the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs assigned her 24-hour police protection based on a security assessment.

Pressure and Threats

The Bureau for Social Research (BIRODI) announced that it would file a criminal complaint with the Higher Public Prosecutor's Office in Belgrade against an as-yet unidentified individual using the account @TheWitcher__4 on the social media platform X. The complaint concerns offensive posts that could also be interpreted as threats of physical violence against Zoran Gavrilović, BIRODI's Executive Director. The Bureau stated that these messages should not be viewed in isolation from the broader social and media context, which is characterised by ongoing attacks against civil society organisations, independent researchers and individuals who report violations of regulations.

Petar Petrović and Miljan Čičić, councillors representing the Promene u fokusu (PUF) movement in the Zrenjanin City Assembly, called for an urgent response from the police and prosecution authorities following death threats directed at them on the social media platform Facebook.

UNS called on the relevant authorities to identify and bring to justice the individual who threatened former Euronews Serbia employees in comments posted on the Association's website. The threats followed the submission of a letter to UNS by former Euronews Serbia employees, in which they accused Minja Miletić and Dragana Pejović of being responsible for systematic pressure on journalists, the erosion of professional standards and damage to the media outlet's reputation. In comments posted below the published letter, the former employees were subjected to insults and threats of retaliation after the next elections. They were also warned to consider whether they would be able to continue living in Serbia alongside those who were on the opposing side.

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